

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
April 9, 2007

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at West Lafayette City Hall, Board of Works Room, on April 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm. In compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law, notice of this regular meeting was sent to the press and posted. Copies of the meeting agenda and unapproved minutes of the February 12, 2007 Executive Session, March 27, 2007 Executive Session, March 27, 2007 Special Session, and March 12, 2007 Regular Meeting were available at a table adjacent to the entrance to the Board of Works Room.

Police Merit Commission President Polles called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don Corrigan, Larry Leverenz, Virginia Nead, John Polles, and Joel Weber.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Counsel Williams, Deputy Chief Walker, and one member of the police department. No members of the public or the media were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commissioner Corrigan moved approval of the minutes of the February 12, 2007 Executive Session. The motion was unanimously adopted.
- B. Commissioner Leverenz moved approval of the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Executive Session. The motion was unanimously adopted.
- C. Commissioner Weber moved approval of the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Special Session. The motion was unanimously adopted.
- D. Commissioner Nead moved approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2007 Regular Meeting. The motion was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Weber proposed a change to Article II.F of the West Lafayette Police Merit Commission Rules and Regulations and moved "to revise Article II.F to read, "F. Filling Vacancies. The Chief shall notify the Commission in writing when a vacancy occurs in the department. The Commission President with one other Commissioner shall check the Eligibility List and the Commission President shall then provide the Chief with the name of the applicant having the highest score on the Eligibility List. Other Commissioners should be notified of the name that has been provided, with the Secretary updating the master Eligibility List to reflect this. After an applicant's name is given to the Chief, the applicant shall be informed and sent a background investigation package via Certified Mail, Return Receipt, and have two

weeks from receipt to return the background investigation package. If the applicant fails to return the background investigation package within the specified time, the Chief shall inform the Commission; the Commission will remove the applicant's name from the Eligibility List, and provide the name of the next applicant having the highest score on the Eligibility List. Or, if the applicant declines to continue in the employment process, the Commission will remove the applicant's name from the Eligibility List, and provide the name of the next applicant having the highest score on the Eligibility List. To continue in the employment process, the applicant must then:"." After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted.

- B. Commissioner Leverenz requested to see copies of letters sent in the Commission's name. Commission President Polles agreed to provide copies by the next regular meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Weber reported that he believes clarification is needed to Article V.C of the Rules and Regulations. The rules require promotional examinations to be given at least annually. The rules currently do not clearly state the period of time for which the promotion exam results and corresponding interview results are valid. Per the rules and Indiana Code, candidates for promotion are not placed on an eligibility list until they have been scored on all rating factors (exam result, interview result, length of service, and performance evaluation). It does not seem reasonable that exam and interview results would be valid indefinitely. Other Commissioners were asked to look at this area. Discussion followed. It was pointed out that while officers benefit from the exam and interview experience, interviews conducted when there is a job opening should be more reflective of the experience of the candidate for promotion and provide the existing Commission members a look at the candidate. Interviews conducted prior to an opening for promotion might have done by other Commissioners. The topic will be further discussed at the next regular meeting.
- B. It was decided to defer the establishment of a date for interviews of the officers who took the promotional Lieutenant examination on April 7, 2007 until a decision is made on the period of time the exam and interview results are valid.
- C. Commission President Polles reported that new applicant testing will be done on Saturday, April 14, 2007 for the physical agility test and aptitude test. Police Review Board interviews will be held on May 10 and 11, 2007. It was decided that Merit Commission interviews would be held on May 17, 18, and 19, 2007, starting at 8:30 am each day, in the Police Department Conference Room.
- D. Commission President Polles reported on recent newspaper articles that reflected positively on the West Lafayette Police Department.

On March 22, 2007 there was an article in the Journal and Courier concerning Mother's Against Drunken Driving saluting drunken driving enforcement efforts. The article reported that West Lafayette Officer Wiete had the most operating while intoxicated (OWI) arrests in Tippecanoe County during the last year. In a separate E-

mail, Chief Marvin reported that West Lafayette Officer Phillips had the third most OWI arrests, Officer Eager had the fourth most OWI arrests, and Officer Philhower had the fifth most OWI arrests in the county.

On April 5, 2007 there was an article in The Exponent concerning a "ride along" by an Exponent reporter with Officer Brewer.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

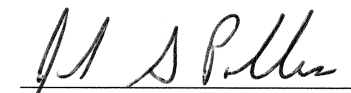
None.

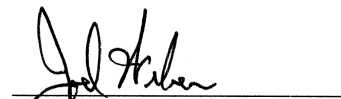
PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

  
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John Polles  
President

  
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Joel Weber  
Secretary

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
Meeting Agenda, 9 April 2007  
7:30 P.M., Board of Works Room, City Hall

**Opening**

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call  
Approval of Minutes for Executive Session on 12 February 2007  
Approval of Minutes for Executive Session on 27 March 2007  
Approval of Minutes for Special Meeting on 27 March 2007  
Approval of Minutes for Meeting on 12 March 2007

**Old Business**

Proposed changes to Articles II.F. of WLPMC R&R (Commissioner Weber)

**New Business**

Proposed change to Articles V.C. of WLPMC R&R (Weber)  
Date for interviews of lieutenant candidates (Commissioner Polles)  
Update on new applicant testing in April (Polles)  
Recent news items concerning the WLPD (Polles)

**Items from the Floor**

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment**